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East Germany

COUNTRY 25X1 REPORT NO. 25X1

TOPIC KVP in Prenzlau

25X1

EVALUATION

DATE OF CONTENT

15 October to 16 November 1953

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 15 December 1953

REFERENCES

25X1

PAGES

3

ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

25X1

1. Strengths of regiments of the VP Unit Prenzlau determined on 31 October 1953 included 1,850 officers, NCOs and personnel for the 1st A-Kommando in Pinnow, and 1,524 officers, NCOs and personnel for the 3d A-Kommando in Droegerheide. The B-Kommando in Droegerheide had 1,098 officers, NCOs and personnel and the C-Kommando in Droegerheide had 514 officers, NCOs and personnel. 1
2. The following strengths of divisional units of VP Unit Prenzlau were determined on 4 November 1953:

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>NCOs and EM</u>
Headquarters	39	36
Commander's company	4	53
Chemical platoon	1	23
Motor supply	5	58
Motor maintenance	6	54
Motor school	5	205
D-1 (signal battalion)	29	189
Command battery	3	38
Flash and sound ranging platoon	5	48
S-4 (AT)	5	144
S-1 (Motorcycle riflemen)	146, NCOs and EM	
Bakery company	3	35

1

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

25X1

SECRET

25X1

- 2 -

3. The strength of the 2d A-Kommando was determined as follows on 4 November 1953:

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>WCOs and EM</u>
Muenster regimental headquarters	45	44
Regimental school	1	23
1st Battalion	34	303
2d Battalion	32	306
3d Battalion	38	334
S-1	4	30
S-2	4	35
S-3	5	45
S-4	4	33
S-5	1	22
S-6	4	40
S-7	4	21
Motor company	5	61
Commander's platoon		10
B-headquarters	5	24
Band	1	11
Supply platoon		32
Guard detail		6
Hospital	1	19
Course for first sergeants	13	108 acting first sergeants
Detained		10 1

4. From 1 to 15 November, 16 officers of the 2d A-Kommando were detached to the new division in Potsdam. 2
5. From 15 October to 16 November, officers of VP Unit Prenzlau were continually transferred to registration agencies in Thuringia and Saxony. One of the officers transferred was Captain Waller (fnu), chief of staff of the 2d A-Kommando. 3

SECRET

25X1

SECRET

25X1

25X1

- 3 -

6. On 4 and 5 November, the unit was inspected by Minister President Grotewohl, Minister of the Interior Stoph and several Soviet generals.
7. The state of training of the unit which had been inspected by about 120 officers of the Ministry of the Interior from 26 September to 6 October 1953, was called unsatisfactory at the final inspection. All units therefore intensified field training, practicing up to company level. 4
8. The armored personnel carriers which arrived from 19 to 25 October, and were assigned to the 2d A-Kommando were 3-axle M-3 type vehicles. 4
9. The morale of the unit was extremely poor during the period under review and even worse than it had been prior to the large dismissal action. Acts of disobedience were a frequent occurrence. The officers were criticized for this situation as their conduct was not up to standards. Rows and altercations often developed between officers and men at dancing parties. Cases of Awol, burglary and thefts occurred at a higher rate than previously. One of the chief causes of this state of affairs was the poor food which, as a result of a shortage of competent cooks, was frequently spoiled. Another factor to breed dissatisfaction was the allotment of dwelling space to married soldiers and the fact that officers were given preferential treatment. The officers inspecting troops had voiced concern about this situation.
10. Soviet advisors assigned to the 2d A-Kommando were given completely furnished new apartments for which 7,000 eastmarks had been spent. Source learned that the Soviet advisors received between 1,400 and 1,600 eastmarks up to lieutenant colonel, between 1,800 and 2,000 eastmarks as colonels and 2,400 and more eastmarks as generals.

1. [ ] Comment. The information indicates that the total strength of the Bereitschaft excluding the engineer battalion and the AAA battalion, was about 8,000 men in early November 1953. The strength of the AAA battalion possibly is included in the strength estimate of the B-Kommando in Droegeheide. The previous report by same source failed to indicate the strength of the 3d A-Kommando and of the engineer battalion.
2. [ ] Comment. It is known from previous information that the filling up of the Mechanized Bereitschaft in Potsdam is being given priority.
3. [ ] Comment. Volunteers recruited by the recent recruiting campaign are scheduled to be assigned to units of TV 24 in Saxony and Thuringia to bring these to the strength of TV 12. [ ] and [ ]
4. [ ]

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25X1